

# NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



**Interpretation Number:** 96-07

**Date:** 31 October 2003 (original 21 Oct 1996)

**Pamphlet Number:** NFPA 13 (2002)

**Section(s):** 8.7.5.2.2, 8.9.5.2.2

**Comments:**

Sidewall fire sprinkler heads and potential obstructions based on NFPA 13 (2002), 8.7 and 8.9

**Question:** Can sidewall sprinkler heads be used in conjunction with privacy curtains in a health care facility?

**Response:** Yes. Sidewall sprinkler heads may be used in light hazard occupancies containing privacy curtains if the horizontal distance from the sprinkler to the privacy curtain and the vertical distance of the top of the privacy curtain below the head is in accordance with 8.7.5.2.2 (standard sidewall spray sprinklers) or 8.9.5.2.2 (extended coverage sidewall spray sprinklers).

The top of any curtain that is a horizontal distance of more than 30 inches from the head must be located at least 18 inches minimum below the height of the head.

No part of the curtain may encroach into the minimum vertical clearance distance required in the tables. When sidewall sprinkler heads are installed, mesh is considered to be the same as solid material and is not allowed in this area. Chains or similar hanging devices are the only items allowed within the restricted clearance height.

This interpretation applies to the installation of a new sprinkler system or new privacy curtains. Previously approved systems or curtains may continue in use.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** Dennis C. Hohbein, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal